COMIX WAVE 17. July 1984. © CLAY GEERDES, Box 7081, Berkeley, CA 94707. Subs: $6 for 24. Logo by John E, publisher of MUMBLES. John's first mini-comic for CW is GARAGE SALE (50/stamp). Other new minis include ANOTHER LI'L BOOK OF BIG TITS(Geerdes/Holman), BABYFAT 44, and GUNS 'N' AMMO 1 (Brad Caslor), all 50/stamp from CW.* Lots of newavers on hand at the recent San Diego Comicon. David Miller, Steve Lafler, Johnny Edgar, Jane Oliver, Susan Catherine, Doug Holverson, Doug O'Neill, Norman Dog, Jim Williams. We caroused around, drinking beer, talking projects, gossiping, watching Bob Clampett cartoons, hearing the latest about various books that are out or on the way out. Howard Chaykin said he took a couple of issues off, but is back in the swing now. I did a piece on AMERICAN FLAGG which will run in the new issue of THE TELEGRAPH WIRE.* I see Crumb has illustrated Weaver's novel, TEXAS CRUDE.* Gary Panter at the con signing his RAWS. Norman Dog there with his t-shirts. The usual old-timers sitting behind their Golden Age collections and the usual younger dealers trying to get the best for less so they can peddle them for the most. When you buy a book, it's always "a collector's item, be worth a lot of money in a few years," then a few years later when you're trying to sell that valuable "collector's item", you hear "Sorry, can't use it. Got a basement full. Marvel dumped the title, blah blah! Give you a quarter for it." Print runs are too high on most contemporary comics for them ever to be worth much as collector's items. The entire X-Men trip is a manufactured collector/dealer hustle anyway. What value does a collection have when every other person has the same books? A silly business.* I saw stats of the rest of Dave Stevens' Rocketman story and was very disappointed. The first part was done with such care and love, but what I saw was a quickie finish, something an artist does to fulfill a commitment and get something out of the way so he can go on to other projects. A shame to do that to Rocketman. No points for Stevens on this one.* Overheard in the hotel elevator: "What did they find down Boy George's pants?" "Michael Jackson's other glove." There was a Rocketman in this year's costume contest, but no newave character yet. The only ug characters that have appeared in the contest are Cheech Wizard and Zippy. Sergio Aragones emceed the contest and did his shuffle off to Buffalo a few times as an adlib.* Lots of random sketching in the bar and at the banquet.

-CLAY GEERDES, July 8, 1984

NEWAVES IN PRINT: GOODIES 13 is $1 from Bra Foster, 4109 Pleasant Run, Irving, TX 75038 Sex art.* THE TRAGEDY OF MORTY, ACT 3, is $2.50 from Steve Willis, 385 1/2 Irving, Pullman, WA 99163.* CEREBUS 63, JOURNEY 11, and FLAMING CARROT 1 out from Aardvark-Vanaheim.* CAPTAIN SAUCER #9 is $2.54 from Doug Holverson, R R 1, Soldier, IA 51572.* From Dale Luciano, CRANIUM STATION DMZ (art by Steve Willis). Mini or DZ size. 50/stamp or $1.54 pp. 6932 East Rosewood, Tuscon, AZ 85710. Dale has done a long piece on the Newavers for TCJ 94.* Johnny Edgar connecte with Last Gasp at the Con and one of his stories will run in SLOW DEATH 11. John has NICKELBAG 3 and some other minis, so send hi a buck and say you want 'em. 119 Truru St., Browns Mills, N J 08015.* BAD BOY COMIX 2 is 8 pages of art, color cover. $2.50 from Douglas O'Neill, 15520 Tustin Village, Tusti CA 92680.* Jim Williams had some copies of his 8 1/2 x 11 MILT THE MUTATION with hand-colored covers at the con. Write and ask hi if he still has some. $1.54 pp.

A Psalm for 1984

RONALD REAGAN is my president; I shall not want.

2 He maketh me to lie down in great hunger; he leadeth me beside the still smelters.

3 He restoreth my debts; he leadeth me in the paths of nuclear warfare for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of despair, I will fear no change; for thou art reactionary; thy office and thy staff they do nothing to comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a speech before me in the presence of mine enemies; thou annointest my head with promises; my national debt runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will see thee removed from residence in the White House forever.

Anonymous

By Chris Stewart

Holdout

This Bank of America teller, James A. Pinkoski, 34, locked himself inside a room yesterday in the University branch at Telegraph and Durant avenues in Berkeley, where he worked. He refused to budge for four hours, until he could hold a press conference. Police finally agreed to the demand and waited until Pinkoski, an aspiring cartoonist, told reporters of his plan to reform the nation's banking system. Then officers took him to jail, where he was held in lieu of $2500 bail on charges of carrying a concealed weapon, carrying a loaded weapon and trespassing.

Armed artist gets his wish

By MODESTO FERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

Jim Pinkoski, who held police at bay for five hours and forced the closure of the University Branch Bank of America, was released on his own recognizance yesterday by an Alameda County Superior Court judge.

Pinkoski, a part-time employee at the bank and a frustrated comic-strip artist was arrested yesterday after he held an impromptu press conference — his only demand after he had locked himself in the bank's conference room with a loaded pistol and threatened to commit suicide if anyone came after him.

An Oakland resident, Pinkoski was charged with possession of a firearm without a permit, possession of a loaded firearm in a public place, trespassing and possession of amphetamines.

Pinkski, 34, said he chose his and George Orwell's birthday to make this desperate attempt to publicize a comic strip that presents his ideas for a new banking system that would incorporate all banking transactions in one national institution. He later got his birthday wish: publicity in local television, radio and newspapers.

At 10:30 a.m., Pinkoski walked into the bank and handed a letter to branch manager Al Roessert, telling Rossert to clear the bank. Soon afterwards, Pinkoski locked himself in the conference room while police cordoned off the block surrounding the bank and a large group of onlookers gathered.

By noon Monday, a little more than an hour after he locked himself in the bank's conference room, the area near the bank was like a circus. Dozens of Berkeley and UC police kept hundreds of spectators away from the bank, fearing Pinkoski had a bomb. News crews from local television and radio stations and newspapers in the area pressed to cover the story. Rumors flew and so did the bubbles of local poet Julia Vinograd (the bubble lady), who questioned police spokespersons and reporters.

After holding out for four hours, Pinkoski surrendered to police when he was granted his demand for a press conference with The Daily Californian, KALX, The San Francisco Chronicle, and television stations KGO and KRON.

Pinkoski, dressed in a black-and-white shirt with a photo button of Albert Einstein, seemed calm when he told the journalists that he took this action after his failure to gain publicity for his criticism on the current banking system and his ideas to reform it. His ideas, which are in comic strip form, are on sale at Cody's bookstore and Comics & Comix, both on Telegraph Avenue.

"I'm trying to offer a solution to this country's banking problems," Pinkoski said. "But if you're not a professor, people just don't listen to you."

After the 10-minute press conference, police led Pinkoski to a waiting squad car. On his way out of the bank the remaining crowd of 100 cheered him. Vinograd led the onlookers in singing "happy birthday" to Pinkoski.

Pinkoski had worked for Comics & Comix' San Jose branch in 1972, according to Sue Honor, personnel manager at Comics & Comix. Comics & Comix has published and sold his work since 1974. According to Honor, Pinkoski, who worked as a salesclerk at Comics & Comix, was frustrated because he did not become as successful as other employees he worked with. Frank Cirroco and Brent Anderson, who both now work for Marvel Comics, Inc., were contemporaries of Pinkoski at the San Jose store.

Honor said it was not like Pinkoski to be violent. "I think that the gun was just for dramatic effect," she said. "I don't think he would have commited suicide." Two fellow tellers at the bank were also surprised by his actions. "He wasn't the kind of person to do this," said a teller who refused to give her name.

which on Monday was flashed on every local television newscast.

"I think we should switch to a generic banking system," he said. Pinkoski's solution to this country's banking woes is the creation of a one-bank system.

Pinkoski said his plan would work as follows: First, the bank lends money to a person who wants to buy a house. Next, the homebuyer gives the money to the homebuilder. Finally, the homebuilder deposits the money

Pinkoski

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into his or her account — which, of course, is in the same institution that loaned the money. By extension, if the builder pays out some of the money received, the recipients will make deposits in the bank.

So the bank already has its money back. Therefore, Pinkoski said, it can afford to charge extremely low interest and still make a comfortable profit.

Pinkoski, who was a part-time teller at the bank, said, "All I've ever wanted to do was to start a discussion on my ideas on the banking system." Pinkoski had earlier tried to sell his comic strips to various newspapers. The strips criticize the banking system. At a press conference he received last Monday as a condition for his surrender, he told reporters the purpose for his drastic action was to publicize his comic strip.

He said he had been frustrated by earlier attempts to get the media to present his views. Earlier he had picketed the Telegraph Avenue branch of the Bank of America as well as the main headquarters in San Francisco.

Pinkoski was freed on his own recognizance. His pre-trial is scheduled for July 3. The police are keeping as evidence his .32 caliber automatic, which Pinkoski said he bought a month ago. He was arrested Monday for possession of a firearm without a permit, possession of a loaded firearm in a public place, trespassing and posession of amphetamines.

Thursday Pinkoski gave copies of his comic strip to the university's economics department and to the chancellor. "I want to get them to start up a little discussion on my ideas," Pinkoski said.

Dr. Bernard Diamond, a clinical psychiatrist at the University of California Medical School in San Francisco and a former professor at Boalt law school and the defunct school of Criminology at Berkeley, evaluated some of Pinkoski's comic strips earlier this week.

"Nothing in the material suggests mental illness," Diamond said. "He appears to be a member of a class of people who are highly eccentric and individualistic in thinking."

Diamond said these are people who get caught up in imaginative and obsessive thinking and lack contact with others who can provide feedback on their ideas.

"We all need to bounce our ideas with other people. That's how we develop a common conceptual validity," Diamond said. "That's not to say that commonly held ideas of reality are necessarily right. Widely held religous or political ideas for example have not been necessarily right."

Based on an evaluation of Pinkoski's comic strips, Diamond did not consider him dangerous. "The problem seems to be more of a sociological than a psychological one," Diamond said.

THE FIRST MILITANT CARTOONIST? COMIX RADICALISM IN BERKELEY? Thursday, June 28, 1 PM. On the steps in front of Sproul Hall just a few yards from the spot Mario Savio made famous back in 1964 when he kicked off the Free Speech Movement and altered the history of the campus forever. Pinkoski is carrying a sign which says, DO BANKS PISS YOU OFF? Jim is a lone picket telling his story to a Daily Cal reporter while handing out his leaflet. Asked about his gun, the 32 the police have on ice, Jim said he was a CO during the Viet Nam war and had been a pacifist since his student days in Sacramento. He used the gun because the media responds to guns, not words. The outcome of it all? Well, Jim was arraigned and will have a hearing on July 17 and I'll pass along the result. In the dealer's room in San Diego, I heard people writing Jim off as crazy, but I don't think he's crazy at all. His ideas re banking are quite logical. What they don't accept is the right of the big bankers to make a ton of money off everyone and we are unlikely to see any reform that tries to take the gas out of the Rolls Royces of the rich. Jim was one of the earliest newavers; he did RAVEN HARE in 1972. C.G.

Just days after closing bank, comic's back on Sproul Plaza

By MODESTO FERNANDEZ
STAFF WRITER

Jim Pinkoski was back in obscurity Thursday, less than a week after he forced the closure of the Bank of America branch at Telegraph and Durant Avenues.

Only a couple of people recognized his beared, bespectacled face yesterday as he tried to give his message on the banking system to the scores of people sunning lazily on the steps of Sproul Hall. It was the same face

BRIGHT IDEAS
by Jim Pinkoski
EVERY HOUSE IN THIS COUNTRY IS HOOKED UP BY AN INVISIBLE UMBILICAL CORD TO THE BANK THROUGH WHICH THAT HOUSE IS FINANCED...
EVERY SINGLE HOUSE-OWNER MUST PREPARE TO FACE A PERPETUAL PERSISTANT DRAIN ON HIS OR HER ENERGIES TO MAKE THOSE MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENTS, TO FEED BACK THOSE NUMBERS TO THAT BANK'S COMPUTER...
FEED IT, FEED IT, FEED IT !!...
EVERY BANK'S COMPUTER ACTS LIKE A VORACIOUS EVER-HUNGRY BEAST WHOSE DEMANDS WILL NEVER LET OFF! EVERY HUMAN BEING FACES THIS BANK MONSTER, THIS THING-THAT-MUST-BE-FED...
I HAVE NEWS FOR YOU: IT IS THE BEAST.
WRITE DOWN THE ALPHABET AND PUT NUMBERS IN INCREMENTS OF 6 NEXT EACH LETTER: (A IS 6, B IS 12, C IS 18, etc.)
"COMPUTER"
18+90+78+96+126+120+30+108 = 666
THE SIGN OF THE ANTI-CHRIST.
Jim Pinkoski